2975 Laurel Street #20
San Diego, California 92104
December 19, 1988

Congressman Jim Bates
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Jim,

I have recently learned that three women marines, LCpl Barbara Baum, Sgt Cheryl Jameson, and Sgt Glenda Jones, are serving prison sentences in the Parris Island stockade for alleged homosexual behavior. South Carolina newspapers have reported that the methods of the investigating command have been highly questionable and have included the transfer of personnel who might have acted as favorable character witnesses for the defendants.

As a six-year veteran with Vietnam service, I am well acquainted with unfair treatment and denial of civil liberties of military personnel accused of homosexual behavior. But one-year incarcerations and dishonorable discharges seems incredibly harsh and inappropriate.

I am writing to ask that your office look into the circumstances of what appears to be military homophobia at its worst. No matter what their sexual preferences, these women are not criminals and don't deserve imprisonment. I am outraged that the U.S. military gets away with such assaults on the dignity of its own members.

Sincerely,

R. Jess Jessop

Robert "Jess" Jessop

cc: San Diego Veterans Association